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CIA/SAVA /WVIND 721118



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending November 18, 1972

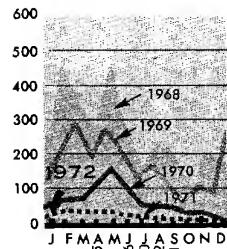
NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

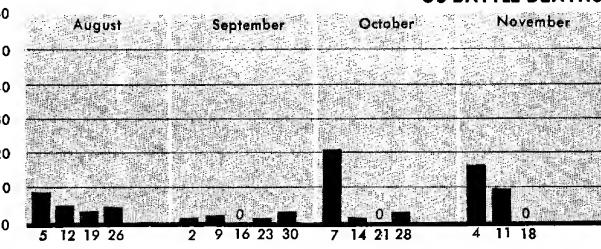
1968-1972
Weekly average for each month



AUGUST — NOVEMBER 1972
Weekly data as reported

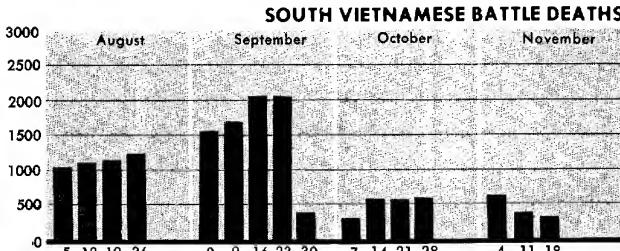
US BATTLE DEATHS

decreased to zero from the 9 of last week.



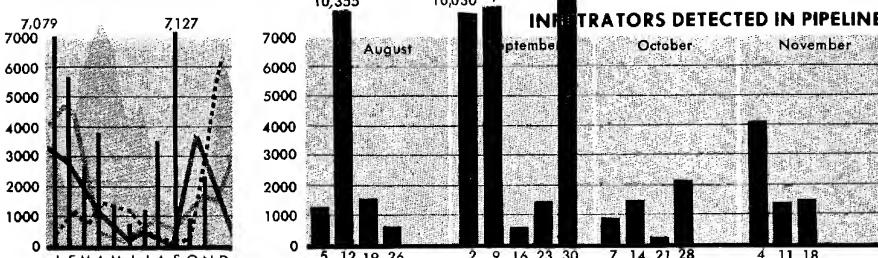
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

totaled 287 for the week. This figure is preliminary and may change considerably as more complete information becomes available.



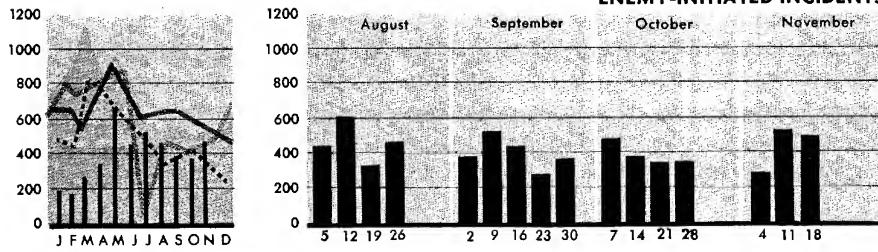
INFLITRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

include three regular and 11 special purpose groups totaling 1,395 personnel. The estimate of infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 now stands at some 12,000 13,000.



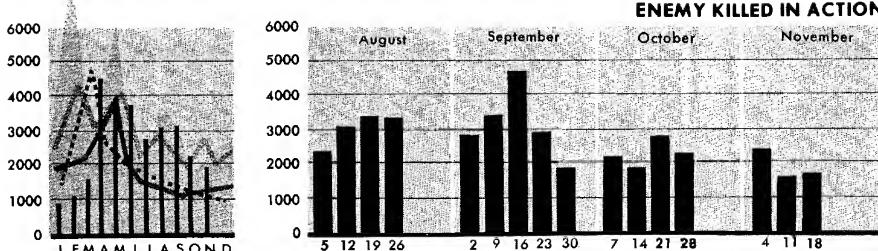
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

fell to 487 from the 516 of last week.



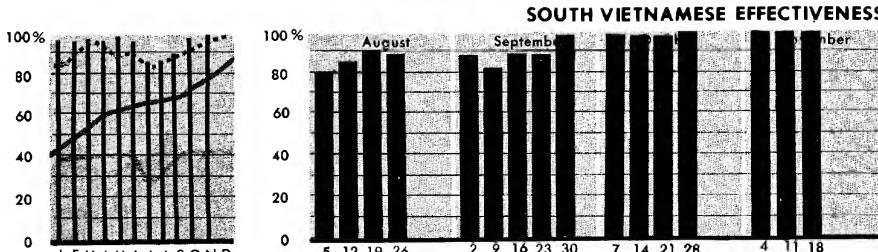
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

rose from last week's 1,544 to 1,620.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces stood at 100% -- the same level as the previous three weeks.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated ground activity was generally at a low level during the past week in South Vietnam, although Marine and Airborne positions in northern Quang Tri Province were subjected to heavy artillery attacks as the NVA continued to resist the GVN push toward the Cua Viet. Bad weather hampered both friendly and enemy operations in this area. In western Pleiku Province of Military Region 2, the positions of two ARVN Ranger battalions were overrun early in the week, but fighting has slackened off since then and is now limited to enemy harassing fire against friendly positions and attempts to interdict roads. In the remainder of the country, the Communists continued to conduct small-scale attacks by fire and to harass highways and GVN outposts. There is unlikely to be any significant change in these enemy tactics in the immediate future. If a settlement agreement is achieved, however, the Communists will probably once again attempt -- in the few days immediately before and after a cease-fire -- to intensify their military activity and to show a presence in as many parts of the countryside as possible.

Government efforts in Cambodia during the week to reopen lines of communication were only marginally successful. Reinforced Cambodian Army units met only light resistance on 19 November when they completed a two-week operation to clear a short segment of Route 4 a few miles southwest of the town of Kompong Speu. Repairs are now underway to reopen it to traffic. In the northwest, repairs to Route 5 were completed only last week, but by the end of this week the Communists had hit one military convoy north of Oudang. Following this attack, another convoy destined for Battambang from Phnom Penh, turned back without attempting to get through. For the time being, therefore, this vital supply line to the northwest is again effectively closed. In other activity last week, FANK units cleared most of Route 2 between Phnom Penh and the provincial capital of Takeo.

In Laos, friendly forces initiated new offensive activities northeast of the Royal Capital of Luang Prabang and achieved some initial successes in a drive to regain territory lost to the enemy in the past few months. On the Plaine des Jarres front, the retreat of government forces in the southern sector has been followed by withdrawals in the southwest as well. In south Laos, government irregulars operating around Saravane are facing renewed enemy offensive action which threatens to crack their morale, but friendly units in both the central and southern Panhandle are pushing eastward toward enemy-held territory. In general, both sides are trying to strengthen their position in the field while the negotiations continue in Vientiane.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

Personnel infiltration continued at a brisk pace during the week as some 1,400 NVA were detected in the infiltration pipeline heading for South Vietnam and Cambodia. Recent enemy communications, moreover, indicate that the infiltration system has been unusually active for the past six months moving sick and wounded personnel northward -- from the battle zone to North Vietnam. From May through mid-November, over 18,500 personnel were detected moving to the north. One 5 November message indicated that almost 5,000 personnel were in the Lao Panhandle at that time awaiting transfer to North Vietnam. The bulk of these casualties have been noted since September and the movement of such a large number of sick and wounded in the last two months or so probably reflects an effort to clear casualties out of rear services facilities. Although the movement of wounded could indicate preparations to close down these facilities, it is more likely intended to open up the facilities for incoming personnel since (as indicated in the paragraph below) there is clear evidence of enemy logistics activities to prepare the Ho Chi Minh trail for operation in the coming dry season.

On the logistics front, intercepted messages reflect continuing seaborne re-supply of North Vietnam through Chinese ports. There are currently 13 foreign flag ships in Chinese ports with cargo believed destined for transshipment to North Vietnam, while four other ships are en route to these ports. Within North Vietnam, the Communists continue to move supplies southward through the panhandle to the DMZ area, despite worsening weather. Numerous references have been observed to difficulties resulting from mud and high water levels, but all evidence indicates that the enemy is making continuing efforts to move foodstuffs, weapons, and ammunition

southward. Additionally, the large number of tanks noted over the past several weeks deploying southward through the Vinh area now appears to have been a newly formed armor regiment -- possibly destined for northern South Vietnam. In southern Laos, communications intelligence indicates that Hanoi is rebuilding its air defense structure. Several AAA regiments, including a rear service-associated control authority, have now returned to the Lao Panhandle. Additional air defense unit redeployments are expected as preparations continue for a dry-season logistic effort.

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